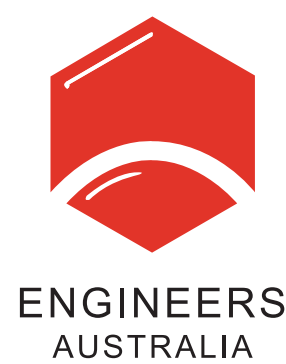


Australian War Memorial Technology Collection



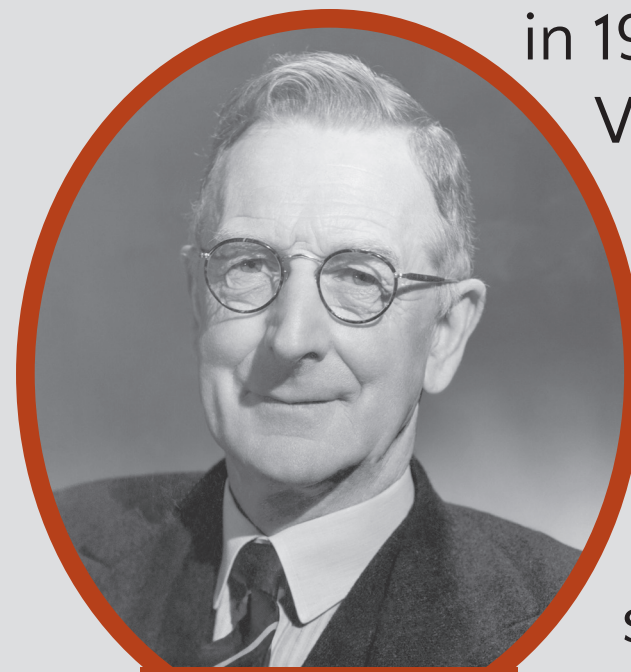
Australian War Memorial
Technology Collection was
recognised by Engineers Australia
with an Engineering Heritage
International Marker in 2019.



For more details on this
and other Engineering
Heritage Markers, visit
[engineersaustralia.org.au/
portal/heritage/search](http://engineersaustralia.org.au/portal/heritage/search)



An Idea Is Born



Charles Bean

The original idea for the Australian War Memorial and its associated technology collection was formed in 1916 when the Official War Correspondent Charles Bean recommended the establishment of a national war museum and the systematic collection of records. In May 1917 a unit known as the Australian War Records Section began operations in London under the command of Lieutenant John Treloar. Together, Bean and Treloar began the nucleus of the Collection through the systematic gathering of 'relics' from the battlefields. All Australian Imperial Force soldiers were ordered to collect objects whenever they could. In this way 25,000 relics were gathered during the First World War. Treloar was to

become the inaugural Director of the Memorial, while Bean oversaw production of, and in large part wrote, the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918.

The Memorial's Collection has tremendous historical significance, both within Australia and internationally, as it illustrates the involvement of Australians in conflicts and peacekeeping. This significance continues to grow as the Collection grows, with items collected from conflicts dating from the colonial period to the present day, including recent conflicts, and humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.



Lieutenant John Treloar

Technology in War

Few things spur technological development the way war does. The Collection consequently contains many items that have great value because they were the first of their kind in the development or deployment of new technologies. Other items display the creative genius of servicemen and servicewomen at war.



P-40E-1-CU Kittyhawk
fighter aircraft A29-133

Why Collect?

The core mission of the Memorial is to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society. The Collection helps to tell the stories of Australians in wartime. In many cases the stories are of ingenuity and engineering innovation in the face of the hardships, deprivation and the urgent needs of wartime.

Many items in the Collection have become landmarks of both Australian and world history. Examples include the water drip and candle self-firing rifles from the Gallipoli evacuation, and the German V-2 rocket, the world's first guided ballistic missile. This was the precursor launch platform for modern space exploration, though its production came at the cost of the lives of some 20,000 slave labourers.

It's Not All Hardware!

The Memorial's Collection contains much more than objects. There are huge holdings of related written records, photographs, film, and art. A good example is the Australian Imperial Force Engineering Unit war diaries from the First and the Second World Wars. The diaries contain very detailed engineering drawings and descriptions of bridgework, bunkers, field obstacles, cooking facilities and the like – all accurately recorded from every theatre of those conflicts. They tell the largely unknown story of the application of the science of engineering by Australians to the unimaginable horrors of war.

Documentation and images from the Collection can be viewed on the Memorial's website:
www.awm.gov.au

“ Here is their spirit, in the heart of the
land they loved; and here we guard the
record which they themselves made. ”

C.E.W. Bean



Torpedo maintenance



German V-2 rocket and
Meillerwagen (transport wagon)



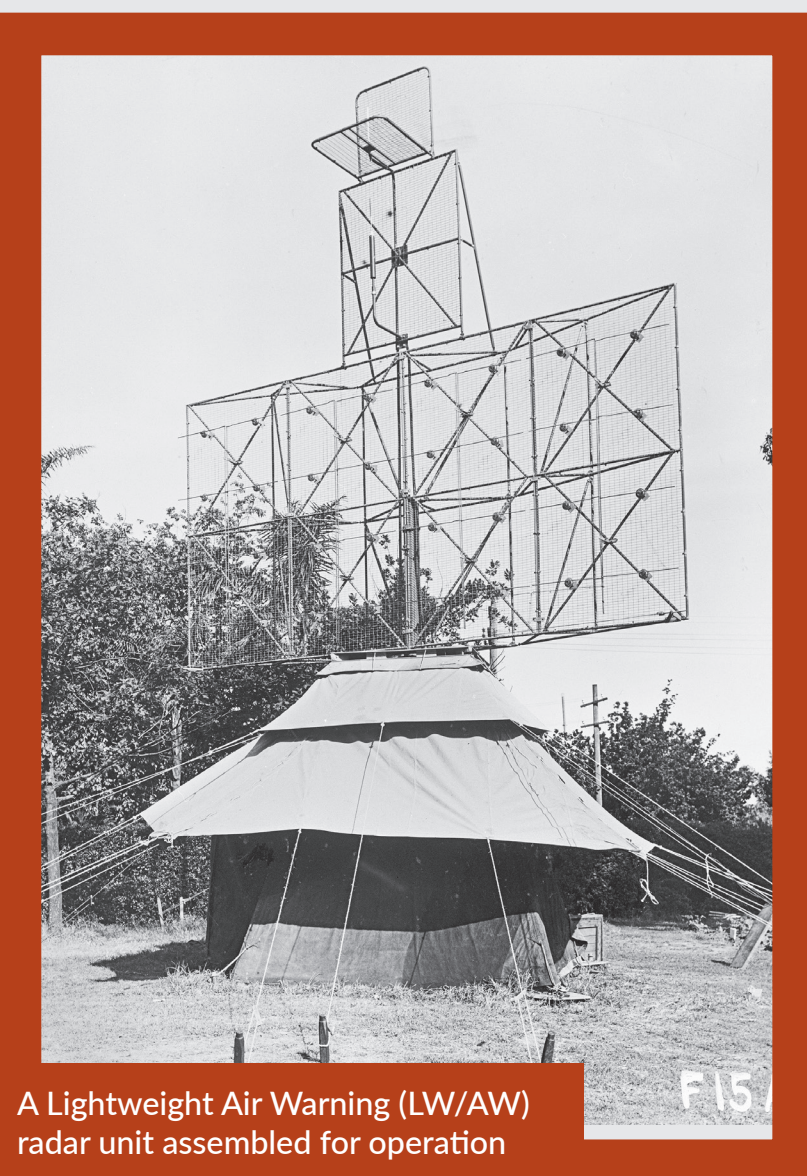
Armstrong 12 Pounder RBL field gun



Prototype 9mm Owen Gun



Bushmaster Protected
Mobility Vehicle



A Lightweight Air Warning (LW/AW)
radar unit assembled for operation